

***Lindernia srilankana* Cramer & Philcox (Scrophulariaceae) – a new record for India**

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Abstract

Lindernia srilankana Cramer & Philcox is recorded for the first time from India. A short discription with illustration and relevant notes is provided.

INTRODUCTION

While preparing the flora of Tirunelveli District of Tamil Nadu, the authors collected an interesting species of *Lindernia* All. from Sivanthipatti village of Palayamkottai taluk, Tamil Nadu. On critical examination and perusal of literature it was identified as *Lindernia srilankana* Cramer & Philcox. So far it is known to occur only in Srilanka. The present collection of *L. srilankana*, therefore, forms a new distributional record for India.

The genus *Lindernia* All. has about 80 species (Cramer, 1981). Among these, 22 species are found in India (Sivarajan & Mathew, 1983) and 15 are known to occur in Tamil Nadu (Henry & Chithra, 1987). A short description of the plant is given below.

Lindernia srilankana Cramer & Philcox; Cramer, Ceylon J. Sci. Biol. Sci. 11(1): 34-35, 1974; Cramer in Dassanayake & Fosberg, Rev. Handb. Fl. Ceylon 3: 416. 1981.

Erect herbs to 25 cm tall; branchlets quadrangular, sparsely glandular hirtellous on angles. Leaves opposite, simple, elliptic-oblong, 10-20 x 6-8 mm, subsessile, punctate, glabrous above, sparsely hirtellous below, base truncate to rounded, 5-nerved, margin crenate-serrate, ciliolate, apex acute to subacute. Flowers 1 cm long, prussian blue, axillary, solitary; pedicels 1.5 cm long, slender, hirtellous, elongated to 2.5 cm long and deflexed in fruit; bracts ovate, 5 mm long, foliaceous. Calyx lobes 5, clefted almost to base, lanceolate, 4 x 1 mm, glandular-hirtellous without, apex acuminate. Corolla 8-11 mm long, tube 5 mm long, dull purple, glabrous; upper lip erect, obovate, 4 x 3 mm, apex 2-fid, emarginate, margin serrulate; lower lip 7-10 mm, 3-lobed, prussian blue-dull blue; lobes orbicular, apex rounded. Stamens 4 (2 perfect + 2 sterile); perfect ones 2-3 mm long, included with upper lip; filaments

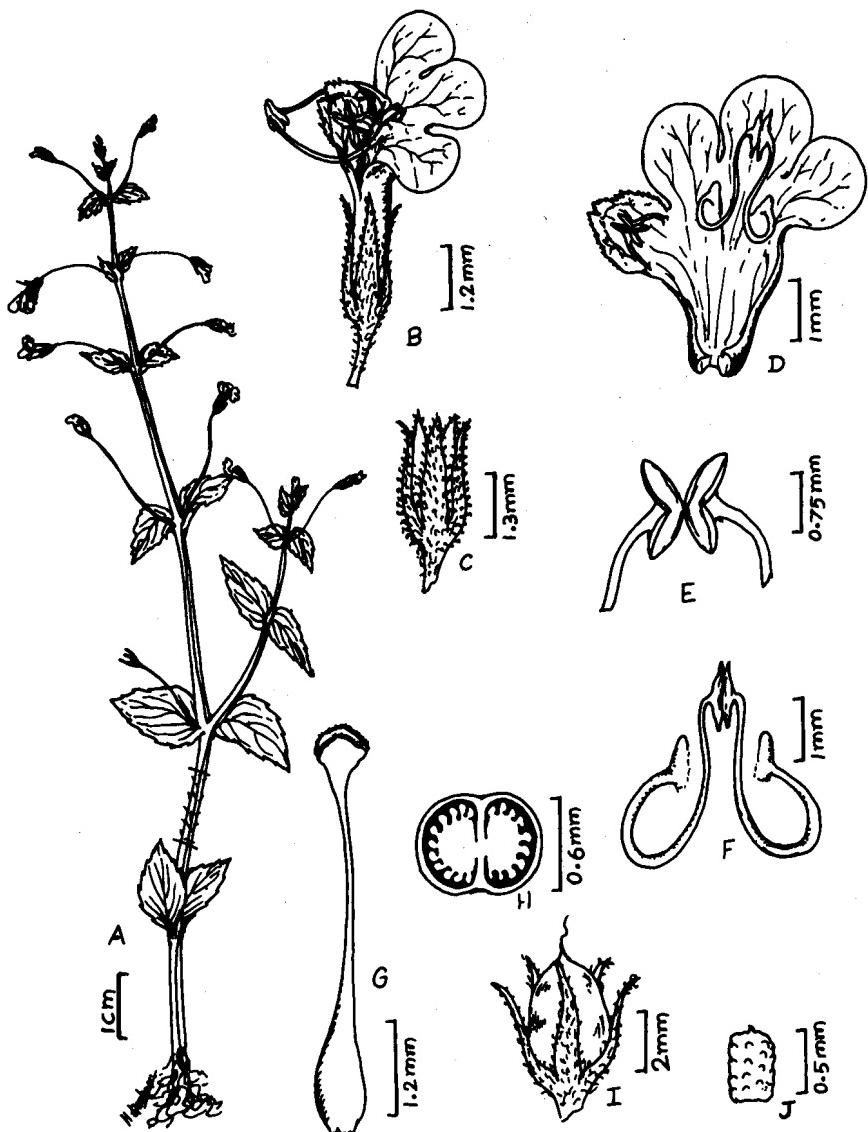
C. Murugan *et al.*

Fig. 1. *Lindernia srilankana* Cramer & Philcox: A. Habit; B. Flower; C. Calyx; D. Corolla – split open; E. Stamens; F. Staminodes; G. Pistil; H. Ovary – C.S.; I. Capsule with calyx; J. Seed.

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3 mm long, filiform; anthers 2-celled, connivant, divaricately lobed; staminodes 2, exserted, corniform, to 5 mm long; appendages filiform, bent upwards, blue. Ovary oblong, 1-2 mm long, glabrous, 2-celled; ovules many, placentae axile; style filiform, 3-4 mm long, glabrous, stigma 2-lamellate. Capsules oblong-glabrous, 4 mm long, apex with withered style; seeds oblong-ovoid, 0.5 mm long, pale brown, minutely alveolate, truncate at both ends.

Flowering and fruiting: December.

Ecology: Rare, along streamsides of black soil.

Distribution: Sri Lanka and India.

Specimen examined: INDIA, Tamil Nadu: Tirunelveli Dist., Palyamkottai Taluk, Sivanthipatti Village-Sastha Koil path, 25 Dec. 2001, Murugan 21279 (XCH).

Acknowledgements

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